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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week
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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week

1960

Durr, Louis Monroe family television script

Howard Langfitt

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W L B T

CONTINUITY

#25
[Durr, Luis Monroe]

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

CAMERA ON LANGFITT

SLIDE PARK-1
HOUSE

WELL, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, HERE IT IS FRIDAY AGAIN AND TIME FOR OUR WEEKLY SALUTE TO A FARM FAMILY DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF FARMING IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE BETTERMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN MISSISSIPPI. SUCH A FAMILY IS THE ONE CHOSEN FOR US TODAY BY MR. JAMES H. PRICE, COUNTY AGENT OF LINCOLN COUNTY. TODAY'S FAMILY LIVES NORTHWEST OF BROOKHAVEN IN THE CASEVILLE COMMUNITY. IT IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG FARM FAMILY THAT CHANGED ITS WAY OF FARMING, A CHANGE THAT HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING AND THE ENJOYMENT OF SOME OF THE BETTER THINGS THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER. THIS IS THE STORY OF MR. AND MRS. LOUIS MONROE DURR AND THEIR THREE BOYS. MR. DURR'S FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS STILL IN HIS TEENS AND IT BECAME HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO FARM THE HOME PLACE WHICH HE DID FROM THE TIME HE WAS 18 UNTIL HE WAS 28. WHILE LOUIS MONROE DURR WAS FARMING HIS MOTHER'S PLACE HE BOUGHT 110 ACRES OF HIS PRESENT LAND. WHEN HE BOUGHT THE LAND THERE WERE NO BUILDINGS ON IT. AT THE AGE OF 26 LOUIS MONROE DURR MARRIED. AFTER THEY WERE MARRIED MR. DURR AND HIS WIFE CONTINUED TO FARM THE HOME PLACE OF 1000 ACRES FOR TWO MORE YEARS.

CONTINUITY

OR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM 2
SHEDSLIDE FARM 3
DAIRY BARNSLIDE FARM 4
MILK HOUSE

IN 1939 MR. DURR AND HIS BRIDE MOVED TO THIS LAND. OF COURSE THEY HAD TO HAVE BUILDINGS, SO THEY SET TO WORK TO GET THEM. THEY WERE SHORT ON MONEY BUT THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIMBER ON THE FARM, SO THEY SET ABOUT TO CUT ENOUGH TIMBER TO BUILD WHAT BUILDINGS THEY WOULD NEED. THIS LOVELY LITTLE HOUSE WAS BUILT BY THE DURR'S DOING ALL THE WORK THEMSELVES. MR. AND MRS. DURR SAW PLANS FOR A MACHINE SHED AND GARAGE IN AN ISSUE OF PROGRESSIVE FARMER MAGAZINE, SO THEY SET OUT TO BUILD IT, AND THIS IS THE RESULT. IN ONE END IS A SMALL ROOM HOUSING THE WASHING MACHINE AND DEEP FREEZE. ONCE AGAIN TIMBER FOR THE BUILDING CAME FROM THEIR OWN LAND. IN THE BEGINNING THE DURR'S RAISED MOSTLY COTTON AND CORN, BUT THEY ALSO OPERATED A CLASS C DAIRY. SEVEN YEARS AGO THEY DECIDED TO MAKE THE BIG CHANGE AND REDUCE CORN AND COTTON AND PUT MORE LAND TO PASTURE AND HAY CROPS AND OPERATE A GRADE A DAIRY. OF COURSE THEY NEEDED MODERN DAIRY FACILITIES INCLUDING AN ACCEPTABLE BARN. ONCE AGAIN THEY SET TO WORK AND BUILT IT THEMSELVES, CUTTING WHAT TIMBER THEY NEEDED FROM THEIR OWN LAND. THE DURR DAIRY BARN IS AS FINE AS YOU COULD WANT WITH CLEANLINESS THE MOST

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-5
COW BARN

SLIDE FARM-6
COWS IN BARN

SLIDE FARM-7
COWS

SLIDE FARM-8
CALVES

IMPORTANT PART OF THE OPERATION. MODERN MILKIN
MACHINES, STERILIZED EQUIPMENT, MODERN COOLING,
AND PERSONAL CLEANLINESS ARE ALL TO BE FOUND
IN AND AROUND THE DURR DAIRY BARN. THE BARN
HANDLES ABOUT 8 COWS AT A TIME AND BEFORE THE
MILKERS ARE ATTACHED EACH COW IS THOROUGHLY
WASHED AND STERILIZED. WHEN THE DURR'S STARTED
PRODUCING GRADE A MILK THEY WERE MILKING ABOUT
15 OR 20 HEAD OF JERSEYS. TODAY THEIR HERD
CONSISTS OF 35 HEAD OF MILK COWS, 18 HEIFERS AND
A HERD BULL. THE COWS ARE FED A MIXTURE OF
OAT HAY, LESPEDEZA HAY, CLOVER HAY, CORN AND
MOLASSES WITH CONCENTRATE AND MEAL ADDED. ALL
THE MIXTURE IS GROWN EXCEPT THE CONCENTRATES.
THE DURR'S HAVEN'T BOUGHT A BUSHEL OF CORN OR A
BALE OF HAY SINCE THEY WERE MARRIED. AT THE
PRESENT TIME THE DURR'S ARE MILKING 23 HEAD.
THE YEARLY AVERAGE IS ABOUT 25 TO 30 HEAD.
MR. AND MRS. LOUIS MONROE DURR RAISE THEIR OWN
REPLACEMENT HEIFERS TO ADD TO THEIR HERD AND
BUILD UP THE QUALITY. SEVEN OF THE JERSEYS ARE
REGISTERED AND THE DURR'S ARE GRADULLY BUILDING
TOWARD A REGISTERED HERD. IN ADDITION TO THE
HERD BULL THE DURR'S BELONG TO THE ARTIFICIAL
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION AND HAVE THE USE OF TOP
QUALITY HERD SIRES.

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-9
SHED

MR. DURR SAYS THAT A WOODED SECTION OF YOUNG PINE PROVIDES MOST ALL THE SHELTER HIS CATTLE NEED AND HE SELDOM BRINGS THEM INTO THIS BARN OR LOAFING SHED UNLESS THE WEATHER IS VERY SEVERE. HOWEVER, THE BARN IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE A PLACE FOR HAY AND GRAIN STORAGE. HERE AGAIN THE DURR'S BUILT THE BUILDING THEMSELVES WITH TIMBER FROM THEIR OWN LAND. IN FACT, EVERY BUILDING ON THE DURR FARM WAS BUILT BY MR. AND MRS. DURR AND THE BOYS FROM TIMBER OFF THEIR OWN LAND. MR. DURR HAD 13 ACRES OF CORN LAST YEAR AND PICKED 1000 BARRELS OF CORN FROM IT. SEVERAL YEARS AGO MR. DURR BOUGHT ENOUGH ADJOINING LAND TO MAKE HIS PRESENT FARM 230 ACRES. LAND THAT ONCE PRODUCED COTTON NOW IS GROWING GRASS. PRACTICALLY ALL GRASS IS DRILLED INTO SOD WITH A PASTURE DREAM, ALLOWING GRAZING IN MOST ANY KIND OF WEATHER. MR. DURR'S PASTURE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 64 ACRES OF PERMANENT, IMPROVED PASTURE MADE UP OF WHITE DUTCH, CRIMSON CLOVER, BERMUDA AND DALLIS GRASS. THE TEMPORARY GRAZING CONSISTS OF JOHNSON GRASS, WHITE DUTCH, KUDZU, OATS AND RYE GRASS. COUNTY AGENT PRICE A AND MR. DURR ARE SEEN INSPECTING THE STAND. MR. DURR HAS DIVIDED ALL HIS PASTURE LAND INTO

SLIDE FARM-10
PASTURESLIDE FARM-11
PASTURE DREAMSLIDE FARM-12
PASTURE

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-13
POND

SLIDE FARM-14
TIMBER

SLIDE FARM-15
TIMBER

10 TO 14 ACRE PLOTS SO THAT HE CAN ROTATE HIS CATTLE FREQUENTLY AND PREVENT OVERGRAZING OF ANY ONE AREA. BEFORE THE DURR'S TURNED TO THEIR PRESENT DAIRY PROGRAM THEY RAISED ABOUT 50 ACRES OF COTTON. TODAY THERE ARE ONLY 7½ ACRES OF COTTON ON THE FARM. IN 1954 THEY RAISED 13 BALES ON THE 7½ ACRES IN SPITE OF THE DROUGHT. WATER IS MIGHTY IMPORTANT TO CATTLE PRODUCTION AND THE DURR'S HAVE 4 STOCK PONDS PROVIDING A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF WATER FOR THE STOCK AT ALL TIMES. AS YOU HAVE ALREADY GUESSED TIMBER PRODUCTION HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DURR FARM PROGRAM. THEY HAVE 75 ACRES IN PINE TIMBER TODAY. THERE ISN'T A HARDWOOD ON THE PLACE....THEY HAVE ALL BEEN WEEDED OUT TO MAKE ROOM FOR YOUNG PINE. 50 ACRES OF THE TIMBER IS YOUNG PINE. THE DURR'S MARKET A LITTLE TIMBER EACH YEAR AS THEY THIN THEIR STAND. STRICT PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE TIMBER FROM FIRE. MR. DURR SAYS THAT TIMBER SALES AND SURPLUS CORN SALES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH SCHOOL. I'M SURE MANY OF YOU RECALL THAT SOME 17 YEARS AGO THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE WORK FOR YOUNG MEN.

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-16
POSTS & VAT

SLIDE FARM-17
FENCE

DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS, MR. AND MRS. DURR SIGNED UP TO HAVE THE CCC CREW CUT TIMBER ON THE LAND AND PUT IT IN GULLIES AND SOD BANKS OF ERODED GULLIES. THIS SMALL PATCH OF TIMBER WAS LEFT BY THE CREW, AND MR. DURR LOOKS AT IT TODAY AND SAY THAT IF HE'D LEFT THE WHOLE TIMBER IT WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE TODAY THAN EVERYTHING THE FARM HAS PRODUCED IN THE YEARS BETWEEN. BESIDES TIMBER FOR SALE AND TIMBER FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION THE TIMBER ON THE DURR LAND AIS O PROVIDES FENCE POSTS FOR NECESSARY FENCING. MR. DURR BUILT HIS OWN TREATING VAT AND WITH IT TREATS ABOUT 300 POSTS PER YEAR. MR. DURR HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. ONE FENCE LINE SHOWED TO ME BY ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{MIKE} AND RONNIE DURR, HAD BEEN IN THE GROUND FOR TEN YEAR AND LOOKED AND FELT JUST AS SOLID AS THOUGH IT HAD GROWN THERE. BY THE WAY, RONNIE IS 11 AND MIKE IS 7. LOUIS JUNIOR IS 18 AND NOW SERVING IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE. IN ALL THEIR FARMING PROGRAM THE DURR'S FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY AGENT. THEIR FARM IS FARMED ACCORDING TO A SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN. ALL LAND IS TERRACED, WATERWAYS ARE GRASSED AND GULLIES THAT ONCE WOULD HIDE A HOUSE HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN PLOWED IN AND COVERED WITH SOIL SAVING GRAS

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-18
HOGS

SLIDE FARM-19
TURKEY

SLIDE FARM-20
DEEP FREEZE

SLIDE FARM-21

TODAY THERE ISN'T A RAW DITCH ON THE DURR FARM. ALL SOIL IS TESTED AND THE LAND IS FARMED ACCORDING TO ITS CAPABILITIES. HILLSIDES ARE IN GRASS AND TIMBER AND FLAT LAND IS ROW CROPPED. THE DURR'S DON'T PURCHASE VERY MUCH FOOD NEEDED BY THE FAMILY. ENOUGH HOGS ARE PRODUCED EACH YEAR TO SATISFY THE FAMILIES NEEDS, AND TO BRING IN A LITTLE ADDITIONAL INCOME. EVERY YEAR AT LEAST TWO HOGS GO INTO THE DEEP FREEZE. BESIDES HOGS AND CATTLE, POULTRY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THIS LIVE AT HOME FARM PROGRAM. THE DURR'S HAVE ABOUT 75 HEAD OF CHICKENS FOR EGGS AND EATING. RIGHT NOW THEY ONLY HAVE 6 TURKEYS BUT HAVE RAISED AS MANY AS 50. THE DURR'S SELL ANY SURPLUS EGGS, CHICKENS, HAY, CORN AND SO FORTH TO BRING IN ADDITIONAL INCOME FOR THE FAMILY. AN ACRE GARDEN PROVIDES VEGETABLES FOR CANNING AND FREEZING. THIS 16 CUBIC FOOT FREEZER IS KEPT FULL ALL THE TIME. THE DURR'S ARE BUILDING A SMALL ORCHARD. 6 PEACH TREES WERE SET OUT THIS YEAR AND 4 PECAN TREES. LIKE SO MANY MODERN FARM WOMEN THE DEEP FREEZE HAS CUT CANNING TIME FOR MRS. DURR FOR MUCH OF IT NOW GOES INTO THE FREEZER, MORE ECONOMICALLY AND MORE QUICKLY. ECONOMY AND LABOR SAVING ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE DURR FAMILY. ONE OF THE BIG CHORES AROUND

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-22
KITCHEN

SLIDE FARM-23
YARD & HOUSE

A DAIRY FARM IS GETTING THE COWS UP FROM THE PASTURE EACH NIGHT AND MORNING. THIS JOB IS SIMPLE ON THE DURR FARM WITH THESE TWO BIG BEAUTIFUL COLLIES EXPERTLY GUIDING THE COWS TOWARD THE BARN. IN LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS LOUIS MONROE DURR SAYS, MY DAD WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GOOD FARMERS IN THE COUNTY, BUT TODAY WE CAN PRODUCE MORE CORN ON 13 ACRES THAN HE COULD MAKE ON A HUNDRED, AND WE DO IT BECAUSE WE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO PROPER FERTILIZATION, PLANTING COVER CROPS, DEEP BREAKING AND LIGHT CULTIVATING AND GETTING THE RIGHT CROP ON THE RIGHT LAND. THERE'S NOTHING FANCY ABOUT THE DURR FAMILY, THEY'RE, HONEST, PRACTICAL, DOWN-TO-EARTH, HARDWORKING DIRT FARMERS AND THEY'RE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF IT. MRS. DURR WORKS AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUCTION BARN EACH FRIDAY KEEPING BOOKS TO HELP ADD TO THE FAMILY INCOME. AND YET SHE FINDS TIME TO COOK AND IRON AND MEND FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AND HELP WITH ANYTHING ELSE THAT MAY COME UP. WE ARE INDEED PROUD AND HAPPY TO SALUTE A FARM FAMILY THAT LOVES THEIR LAND AND WORKS HARD TO REAP A LIVING AND A LIFE FROM IT. THESE ARE THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE BUILT AMERICA, AND WE'RE PROUD TO

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

CAMERA PANNING FAMILY

SALUTE THEM, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS MONROE DURR ARE ACTIVE IN THEIR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH AT CASEYVILLE WHERE MRS. DURR TEACHES THE JUNIOR BOYS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. MR. DURR IS A MEMBER OF THE LOYD STAR SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MRS. DURR IS SECRETARY-TREASURER OF HER HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY FARM BUREAU. THEIR COUNTY AGENT MR. PRICE SUMMED IT UP WHEN HE SAID THEY ARE LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY WORKING FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS. THE DURR'S HAVE A PHILOSOPHY OF LIVING....BUT LET'S ASK MR. DURR TO TELL US ABOUT THAT.

(WALK TO FAMILY)

PHILOSOPHY....ANY MAN THAT WILL SET OUT TO MAKE A LIVING WILL BE MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN IF HE SETS OUT TO MAKE MONEY. YOU CAN MAKE MORE MONEY BY WORKING TO MAKE A LIVING THAN ANY OTHER WAY.....MR. LOUIS MONROE DURR